

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF OLIVER  
LEAVITT**HON. MARY SATTLER PELTOLA**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart I rise today to pay tribute to a great Alaskan and dedicated leader of the Artic Slope Regional Corporation, Dr. Oliver Leavitt. Sadly, Oliver passed away earlier this year on January 9, 2023, at the age of 79 in his lifetime hometown, Utqiagvik. I offer my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones, as well as the entire Artic Slope community.

Dr. Leavitt was a long-time Iñupiat public servant who held innumerable leadership positions on the North Slope and across Alaska. In 1971 he played a key role in the Alaska Native lands claims fight and was a significant contributor to the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). His wisdom and guidance in establishing the Alaska Native corporation system was monumental and will be recognized for generations to come.

Dr. Oliver Leavitt was elected as the first president of the North Slope Borough Assembly in 1972, a position he held for four years, followed by more than 20 years of service in the Assembly. He also served on the boards of the Arctic Slope Native Association and the Alaska Federation of Natives. As Vice President of Lands and Vice President of Government Affairs for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, he effectively messaged Tribal, economic, and cultural priorities in Washington, D.C. and Juneau. His presence will be forever remembered by policymakers who interacted with him.

While working in Washington, D.C., he was pivotal in passing numerous amendments to ANCSA, improving the law for future generations of Alaska Natives. He also contributed to legislation that authorized development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and allowed for increased economic opportunity for Native corporations across Alaska.

Throughout Dr. Leavitt's lifetime, each success was achieved with the support and love of his family and his community. Oliver's legacy will live on through the community and the continued work they do to advance Alaskan priorities. He will forever be survived in the North Slope Borough and throughout all of Alaska.

Oliver dedicated his life to advancing Alaskan priorities and improving the quality of life for Alaska Native communities. I honor his legacy and mourn his loss alongside his family and community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE  
CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished South Carolina organization for its unwavering commitment to our reserve service members. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office was recently awarded the highest honor given by the United States government to employers who show exemplary support for their National Guard and Reserve employees. Their contributions to these service members deserve our respect and recognition.

The Department of Defense established the Employer Support Freedom Award in 1996. The award honors private and public sector employers that demonstrate a strong commitment to military service through their continued support of enlisted employees. In August of 2022, the Department of Defense announced that the Charleston County Sheriffs Office was one of fifteen recipients of the 2022 Employer Support Freedom Award. Out of over 2,700 nominations, it was one of just four law enforcement agencies across the country to receive this prestigious national award.

The Charleston County Sheriffs office was selected because of its long-standing commitment to their Guard and Reserve members and families. The agency has implemented a Military Support Liaison program to effectively attend to members' needs; provide generous paid leave and retirements benefits; engender a community of support for the families of members on active duty; and privately and publicly recognize members' patriotic service to our state and Nation. The Charleston County Sheriffs Office is proud to employ more than a dozen members of the South Carolina National Guard and Reserve, and I am pleased they are receiving this well-deserved recognition.

South Carolina's Guardsmen and Reservists are unmatched in their service to our state and Nation. These honorable men and women sacrifice time away from their families and civilian careers to prepare for duty, and it is their courage and leadership during crises that ensures our communities remain prosperous and secure. The support provided by civilian employers to these service members is essential to the strength, readiness, and diversity of our Reserve forces.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the outstanding support of our National Guard and Reserve employees by the Charleston County Sheriffs Office. Their actions ought to serve as an example to other organizations dedicated to the wellbeing of service members, their families, and the preparedness of our military. Our great state and Nation are safer as a result of Charleston County Sheriff's Office's commitment to these service members.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF STATE SENATOR STEVE  
CASSANO**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to one of Connecticut's First District's foremost public servants, State Senator Steve Cassano.

At the beginning of this year, Senator Cassano retired after a prolific four-decade career—serving as Mayor of Manchester for 14 years and in the Connecticut State Senate for more than a decade.

He was a fierce advocate for regional cooperation—helping the influential Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Capitol Region Council of Governments at various times.

Steve understood that our communities are stronger when we work together, and that our region needs a forward-looking plan for the future that serves all residents.

I had the pleasure of working closely with Senator Cassano in each of his roles over the years.

As Mayor, Steve led the Town of Manchester as it transitioned from a mill town to a local hub for business and a retail destination of the Capital Region.

In the State Senate, he led efforts for Connecticut to recover from Hurricane Sandy, the costliest hurricane to ever hit New England.

He capped off a storied career in government with what Steve called his proudest accomplishment—passing historic legislation to ensure adopted children could access their birth records.

I extend my congratulations to Steve Cassano on a career that served our state and region for the better and I commend and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH AND HARRY HOOSIER**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to an amazing Black man named Harry Hoosier.

If you're from Indiana, you've likely faced the age-old question:

"So, what exactly is a Hoosier?"

Of course, we've heard theories. Richmond resident John Finley's poem "The Hoosier's Nest"—originally spelled "Hoosher"—is often attributed as the first mention of this distinctly Indiana term. The word also appears in the "Carrier's Address" of the Indiana Democrat on January 3, 1832. Yet another theory is that pioneer settlers would respond, "Who's yere?" to a knock on the door.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.